

small beginning's of British power in India, and narrates in detail the quarrels of the two East India companies, but finds hardly anything to say about the new empire rising across the Atlantic. It is easy to understand the prominent place Indian affairs fill in his pages ; one reason is his four years' service in India as Member of the Council, and another is the extent to which the dispute between the two companies influenced the party politics of William's reign. But these facts do not explain his neglect of the West Indies and America. Even if he decided to ignore the Internal history of the plantations, at least their trade with England should have received attention.¹ We know from Macaulay's essay on Chatham that the story of the loss of the American colonies had the greatest interest for him. Why was he so little interested in their acquisition? Contemporary events too might have been expected to direct Macaulay's attention to the colonial problems of the seventeenth century. He had seen how similar problems were solved in the nineteenth century ; the Canadian rebellion, Lord Durham's mission to Canada, the concession of self-government to the Australian colonies, all took place under his eyes. Yet there is hardly any reference to these events in his diary or his letters or his speeches and his views on colonial policy must be gathered from

passages In the
History dealing with the government of
Ireland^ which, as
he observes, ' Our jurists then regarded as a
mere colony/

¹ * In tills growing commerce, the trade with the
American plantations—
the colonial trade proper—was assuming an ever-
increasing importance.
During the first decade of the Restoration, it amounted to
only about one-
tenth of the whole. Twenty years later this trade had,
increased from
roughly £800,000 to £1,300,000, and towards the end of
the **century** it had
considerably more than doubled itself. It then amounted
to £1,750,000
and constituted one-seventh of England's total foreign
commerce.* Beer,
Old Colonial System, i 15. On the trade with India, see W.
W. Hunter,
History of British India, ii (1900), 278.